



August 26, 2009

**To:** Representative Robert Jones and members of House Commerce Committee  
**From:** Greg Rosine and Katie John  
**Re:** Property Conveyance Legislation

**HB 5205 – Northwest Unit (Blakeslee Street)**

- Former site of the State Tuberculosis Sanitarium
- Conveyed to WMU by the state of Michigan in 1996 with a public use reverter clause
- The property still houses the original hospital structure which is in a state of complete disrepair and has become a danger to the community
- WMU Public Safety patrols the property and it is secured with fencing and lighting, but the property is an attractive and dangerous nuisance for vandals
- Demolition of the structure and asbestos removal is estimated to cost in excess of \$1.2 million – leaving the property with a negative value and no viable public purpose
- WMU requests that public use language be removed which would allow the University flexibility to work with the City of Kalamazoo on alternative uses for the property, e.g., low-income housing or supplementary development

**HB 5206 – Noble Lodge**

- Previously used by the Michigan Department of Corrections as a half-way house
- Situated adjacent to University property containing the Kalamazoo Regional Psychiatric Hospital, the property is currently in State surplus
- The property is adjacent to the current WMU Health and Human Services campus
- The legislation would convey the property to WMU for \$1

**HB 5207 – Colony Farm Orchard Property**

- Former property of the Kalamazoo State Hospital farm system
- Conveyed to WMU in 1977 with a public use reverter
- Conveyance allowed MSU to perform entomology research in perpetuity. An agreement has been reached between WMU and MSU to terminate that use over the next three years

- Property is adjacent to the current WMU Parkview campus which houses the College of Engineering and Business and Research Technology Park (BTR)
- BTR has consistently been rated one of the most successful SmartZones in the State of Michigan
- Houses 31 companies, 645 jobs specializing in life-science, advanced engineering and information technology fields
- Legislation allows for possible expansion of the BTR on the currently vacant land
- WMU continues to work with concerned community and neighborhood groups to address issues they have with development of the property
- Overall, WMU views the property as an economic tool that encompasses our mission as a research university
- WMU's Business Technology Research Park:
  - It's development has won awards for innovative and ecologically sensitive storm water management system, the use of natural prairie vegetation, and public trail system
  - 31 resident companies
  - 645 jobs
  - \$24.9 million annual payroll
  - \$182.7 million in annual revenues of resident companies
  - \$811,000 in annual property taxes
  - Home to Southwest Michigan First Innovation Center (business incubator)

City Limits  
 Water Features  
 Surface  
 Culvert  
 Parcels  
 2009 Aerial Photo  
 Water Feature Name  
 Street Names



data located in various city, county, state and federal offices and other sources regarding the area shown, and is to be used for reference purposes only.

**DISCLAIMER:** This map is neither a legally recorded map nor a survey and is not intended to be used as one. This map is a compilation of records, information and lamazoo. Plansight LLC:2008: Rentals Daily: Dec Section Lines: Nov. Moving Properties: Sent Ownership Info: Jan. Parcel: 7/1 and 8/1 and 9/1 and 10/1 and 11/1 and 12/1 and 13/1 and 14/1 and 15/1 and 16/1 and 17/1 and 18/1 and 19/1 and 20/1 and 21/1 and 22/1 and 23/1 and 24/1 and 25/1 and 26/1 and 27/1 and 28/1 and 29/1 and 30/1 and 31/1 and 32/1 and 33/1 and 34/1 and 35/1 and 36/1 and 37/1 and 38/1 and 39/1 and 40/1 and 41/1 and 42/1 and 43/1 and 44/1 and 45/1 and 46/1 and 47/1 and 48/1 and 49/1 and 50/1 and 51/1 and 52/1 and 53/1 and 54/1 and 55/1 and 56/1 and 57/1 and 58/1 and 59/1 and 60/1 and 61/1 and 62/1 and 63/1 and 64/1 and 65/1 and 66/1 and 67/1 and 68/1 and 69/1 and 70/1 and 71/1 and 72/1 and 73/1 and 74/1 and 75/1 and 76/1 and 77/1 and 78/1 and 79/1 and 80/1 and 81/1 and 82/1 and 83/1 and 84/1 and 85/1 and 86/1 and 87/1 and 88/1 and 89/1 and 90/1 and 91/1 and 92/1 and 93/1 and 94/1 and 95/1 and 96/1 and 97/1 and 98/1 and 99/1 and 100/1 and 101/1 and 102/1 and 103/1 and 104/1 and 105/1 and 106/1 and 107/1 and 108/1 and 109/1 and 110/1 and 111/1 and 112/1 and 113/1 and 114/1 and 115/1 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SOURCES: City of Kalamazoo, Plansight LLC; 2008: Rentals Daily; Dec., Section Lines; Nov., Mowing Properties; Sept., Ownership Info; Jan., Parcels, Zoning, Landuse, Bus Stops, Bus Routes; 2007: October,



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